

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 802

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor Gene Beck upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Gene Beck, who has devoted more than forty years to the education and instruction of high school students and athletes; on April 17, 2010, Mr. Beck will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, a sports enthusiast since birth, Gene Beck spent his formative years learning from two of the region's most accomplished coaches, his father, the late Eugene Beck, Sr., and National Federation Hall of Fame Coach, the late Boyce Smith, who coached basketball and football together at Springfield High School; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting outstanding athletic prowess at a young age, Mr. Beck was a standout on the Springfield High School football team and a force to be reckoned with as a player on the men's basketball team, which gave him the chance to showcase his talent on the court of Emory and Henry College in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, after earning his Bachelor's degree in Biology in 1968 and his Master's degree in Education from Austin Peay State University in 1974, Gene Beck began his remarkable career as a teacher and coach at Rich Valley High School in Smyth County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, after one season, he returned to his hometown of Springfield to coach at his alma mater where he served as the basketball coach for seventeen years, always providing his opponents with spirited competition and accommodating hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beck not only coached his students, but he also served as their mentor; he touched the lives of innumerable young people by sharing life lessons and devoting his heart and soul to their successes, both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Gene Beck left his successful coaching career to become a TSSAA Assistant Executive Director for the next twenty-three years, a position for which he was extraordinarily well suited, given his long tenure on the sidelines and his understanding of the importance fair play; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure at TSSAA, Mr. Beck oversaw, at various times, football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and cross country with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, with a reputation for unwavering commitment to the principles he holds dear, Gene Beck promoted the virtues of fairness, self-control, courage, and persistence as the director of the “Just Do What’s Right” Sportsmanship Program and the A.F. Bridges Award Program; and

WHEREAS, responsible for the TSSAA’s entire officiating program, consisting of over 4,000 officials in eight sports, Mr. Beck worked diligently within the state to improve the quality of officiating by conducting instructional camps for officials and systematizing Tennessee football officials’ field mechanics with his ground-breaking manual, “Mechanics Focus;” and

WHEREAS, highly respected by his peers throughout the United States, Mr. Beck represented Tennessee on the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), serving on the Softball Rules Committee, the Citizenship Committee, the Equity Committee, and the Football Rules Committee, in which he rendered sterling service as the Chairman of the Research Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Gene Beck’s impact cannot be adequately measured by his number of years as a member of the TSSAA; his positive impact on the lives of students,

athletes, coaches, and administrators will continue to resound in Tennessee for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Beck has been supported by his loving wife, Norma, and their two children, Julie and Taylor; and

WHEREAS, for his many accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Mr. Gene Beck has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Gene Beck, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in molding the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards in every aspect of their lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Mr. Gene Beck in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. Beck for his substantial legacy as a coach and administrator, and offer our thanks for the dedication which he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.